

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

MONTROSS, VIRGINIA

BOARD MINUTES

October 19, 2020

The Westmoreland County School Board met in regular session on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gerald B. Roane Center for Excellence Building, Montross, Virginia.

Present:

Mr. Ralph Fallin, Chair

Dr. Daniel Wallace, Vice Chair

Ms. Iris Lane, Member - Participated via Electronic Communication

Mrs. Sandra Ramsey, Member

Mrs. Katherine Lewis, Member

Board members participated electronically as established by the Governor's Executive Orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Others Present:

Dr. Michael Perry, Superintendent

Ms. Cathy Rice, Deputy Superintendent

Mrs. Tina Withers, Clerk of the Board

Mr. Chris Evans, Director of Technology

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Fallin, Chair.

The Board was led in prayer by Dr. Perry and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Dr. Wallace read the Westmoreland County Public Schools' mission statement and vision statement to the public.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended and approved by unanimous consent.

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye.

Open Public Comments

None

Consent Agenda

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye.

- A. Board Minutes - September 21, 2020
- B. Finance Report (Appendix I)

Action Items

Donations/School Gifts

Dr. Perry acknowledged individuals that gave donations/gifts to the school division. Dr. Perry and the Board acknowledged the importance partnerships with the community, businesses, and families to ensure students have what they need and the Board graciously accepts donations/gifts.

A motion was made in accordance with school board policy KH, to accept the gifts/donations as presented.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the donations/gifts given to the school division. Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion. (Appendix II)

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye.

Return To Learn Update

Dr. Perry updated the Board on the Return To Learn Plan. Dr. Perry presented a powerpoint that reflected many data points the Board needs to make the decision of students returning to face-to-face learning. Dr. Williams virtually joined the meeting to explain the health department data. Dr. Williams reviewed Westmoreland County's health data with the Board. Dr. Williams stated he feels the schools that are on a hybrid plan are doing well. He stated that there has only been 1 case of transmission in the schools that are currently open. Dr. Williams stated that the virus is still out there and it is critical to follow social distancing and proper PPE procedures. The Board shared concerns of flu season and Covid 19. Dr. Williams stated that slowly bringing students back and using proper PPE and social distancing protocols, he is in full support of the plan to proceed with opening school.

Dr. Perry shared staff and parent data that was collected. Dr. Perry discussed what a potential return to learn would look like. The Board and Dr. Perry discussed staff and parent concerns. Dr. Perry recommended blue and gold days, 2 days a week with 1 day all virtual. Ms. Rice reviewed a new calendar with the Board.

Mr. Fallin requested a 10 minute recess.

The Board reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

The Board discussed concerns with the hybrid model presented by Dr. Perry. The Board stated that staff and student safety is a big concern and that safeguards have to be in place to protect both students and staff.

Mrs. Lewis made a motion to accept the recommendation from Dr. Perry to re-open on a hybrid plan beginning November 5, 2020. Mrs. Ramsey seconded the motion. (Appendix III)

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye.

Approval of Bills

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures in the amount of \$135,961.68 and food service expenditures in the amount of \$85,011.38 as presented. Mrs. Lewis seconded the motion. (Appendix IV)

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye.

VSBA Policy Updates

Ms. Rice requested approval of the policies presented at the last meeting.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the policies as presented. Ms. Lane seconded the motion. (Appendix V)

Voice Vote: 5 Ayes/0 Nays; Mr. Fallin, Aye; Mrs. Ramsey, Aye; Ms. Lane, Aye; Dr. Wallace, Aye; Mrs. Lewis, Aye.

GBA/JFHA-Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation

JFHA/GBA-Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation

JM-Restraint and Seclusion of Students

KNAJ-Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities

IKFD-Alternative Paths To Attaining Standard Units of Credit

Board Self Evaluation

Dr. Perry requested that the Board select a date for a VSBA "Board Self Evaluation" session. The Board selected Friday, January 29, 2021.

Delegations/Presentations

Anti-bullying Presentation

Mrs. England shared that October is Bullying Prevention month. Mrs. England stated that each school in the division is participating in a virtual activity.

VSBA Academy Awards

Dr. Perry presented the Virginia School Board Association Academy Award certificates and pins to the Board members: Dr. Wallace - Award of Excellence, Mr. Fallin - Award of Distinction, Mrs. Ramsey - Award of Achievement, and Ms. Lane - Award of Distinction.

Dr. Perry also recognized the Board for their participation in the Virginia School Board Association Master Board Training. Dr. Perry stated that the Westmoreland County School Board is the first school board to receive this recognition in the state of Virginia. A plaque from VSBA was presented to the Board and Dr. Perry for this accomplishment.

Attendance Recognition

Dr. Perry presented the teacher attendance report for the month of September to the Board. Montross Middle School had the highest teacher attendance for the month of September. Dr. Perry presented the student attendance report for the month of September to the board. Montross Middle School had the best student attendance for the month of September. (Appendix VI)

Information Items

VSBA Legislative Positions & Priorities

Ms. Rice shared a powerpoint on the VSBA Legislative Positions Proposals with the Board. Ms. Rice highlighted proposed changes to existing positions and new legislative positions. (Appendix VII)

Facility Update

Dr. Perry presented the facility update to the Board. Dr. Perry shared pictures of the construction at the new high school, shared the status of contingency funds, and shared the FF&E schedule. (Appendix VIII)

Upcoming Events

Dr. Perry reviewed upcoming events with the Board.

School Board Member Comments

School Board members comments reflected thanks to everyone for attending the meeting. The Board thanked all the staff for developing the Return to Learn Plan. Ms. Lane and Mr. Fallin will be facilitators for the November town hall meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made by Dr. Wallace, seconded by Mrs. Lewis and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

Clerk

Chairman